VARTRAG TALE CHAPTER 11

BY OKI MAMIYA

THE END

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ALWAYS OPEN TO NEW FREELANCERS
FINISHING OFF PROJECTS OF THEIR CHOOSING!

The King's Prison
~LES PRISONS DU ROY~

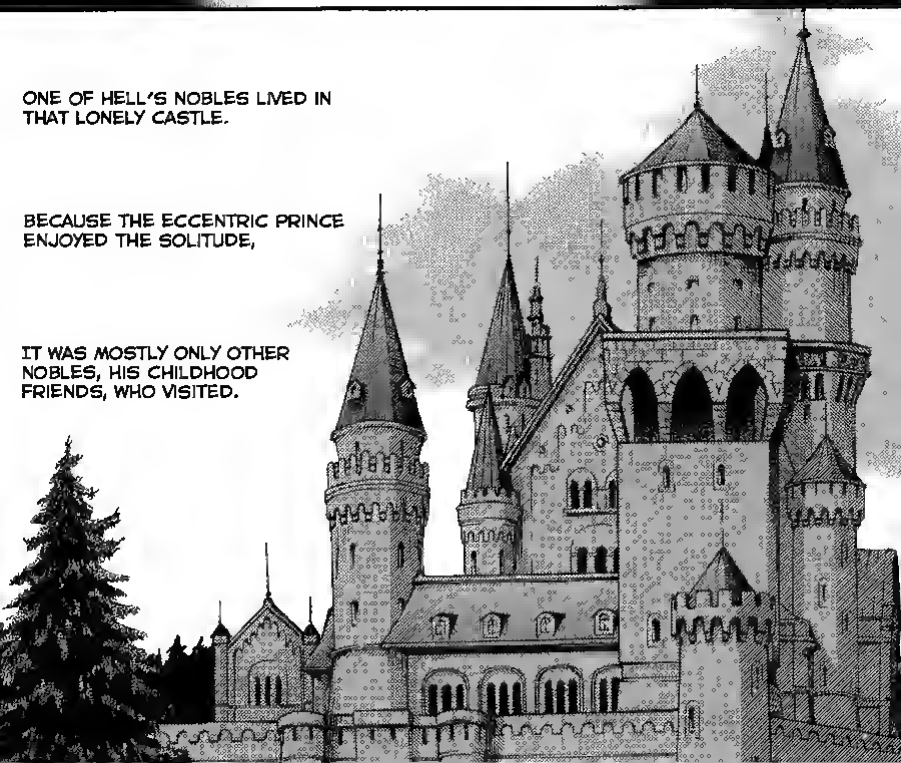
Vartrag Tale "Valafar & Belta"

DON'T BE TEDIOUS.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO PROPOSED IT.
YOU REALLY WANT TO DO THIS AGAINST ME?
YOU'LL REGRET IT, VALAFAR.
IN THE INNERMOST DEPTHS OF THIS CASTLE,
WHO LIES INSIDE THE KING'S PRISON?

Also gut!
SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE SET ON IT.
THEN OUR CONTRACT IS MADE.
THE SOULS GOSSIP.
THEY'RE "PEOPLE" WHO WERE COLLECTED ON A WHIM OVER HUNDREDS OF YEARS.
HEL-LO.
IN THEIR FREE TIME THEY TALK TO ME ABOUT VARIOUS THINGS.
MISS!
ISN'T THAT THE KID SOME SUSPICIOUS LORD WITH SUNGLASSES DROPPED OFF AGES AGO?
WHY DID THE DIRTY KID GO TO SUCH AN EMINENT PERSON?
HAVE YOU GUYS GONE SENILE?
THAT KID WAS MUCH DIRTIER, AND WAS PRE-SENTED TO THE EMPEROR FOREVER AGO.
THIS IS ANOTHER KID.
It's been nearly three weeks
WHAT, HAS SHE JUST BEEN LYING THERE THIS WHOLE TIME?
Though he is a cutie
ARE YOU STUPID?
THAT KID ISN'T A GIRL.
IS SHE ONE OF US?

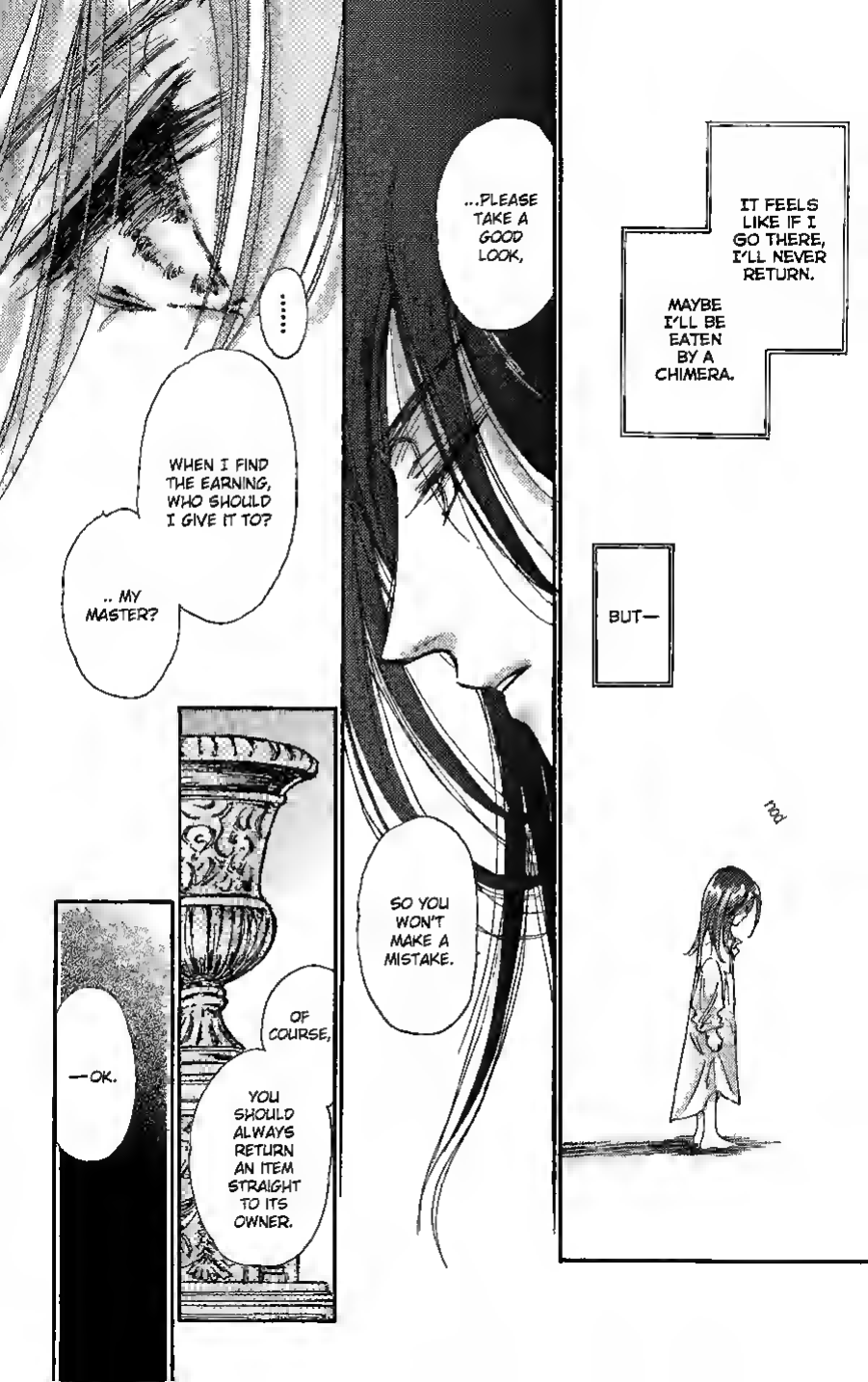
THE KING'S PRISON ...
THAT HORRIBLE PLACE, DARK AND SCARY...
HEY, BOY...
OH.
THIS BOY MIGHT LOOK LIKE A DOLL, BUT HE'S STILL ALIVE.
IT SEEMS THE MASTER HERE REALLY HATES RED-HAIRED WOMEN.
IS THIS KID ALSO JUST MATERIAL FOR HIS EXPERIMENTS?
LIKE THOSE CHIMERAS IN THE PRISON.
HEY!
DON'T SAY SUCH CRUEL THINGS!

WHAT ARE YOU SO SAD ABOUT?
WHO LIVES THERE?
SOMEONE TOLD ME, "YOU".
I WONDER WHY THE MAGIC I'D FINALLY MANAGED TO GET HAS LEFT ME...


ONE OF HELL'S NOBLES LIVED IN THAT LONELY CASTLE.
BECAUSE THE ECCENTRIC PRINCE ENJOYED THE SOLITUDE,
IT WAS MOSTLY ONLY OTHER NOBLES, HIS CHILDHOOD FRIENDS, WHO VISITED.

I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU. WHERE WERE YOU?
DON'T MAKE ME WORRY SO MUCH
...
WITHOUT THAT MAGIC ...
!?
I HAVE A REQUEST OF YOU TODAY.
BUT WHEN HE HAD THE FORM OF A BLACK CAT, I ALWAYS LET HIM SIT ON MY LAP.
THAT'S A LIE.
THE TRUTH IS THAT I DON'T WANT TO SEE THIS RED-HAIRED KID.

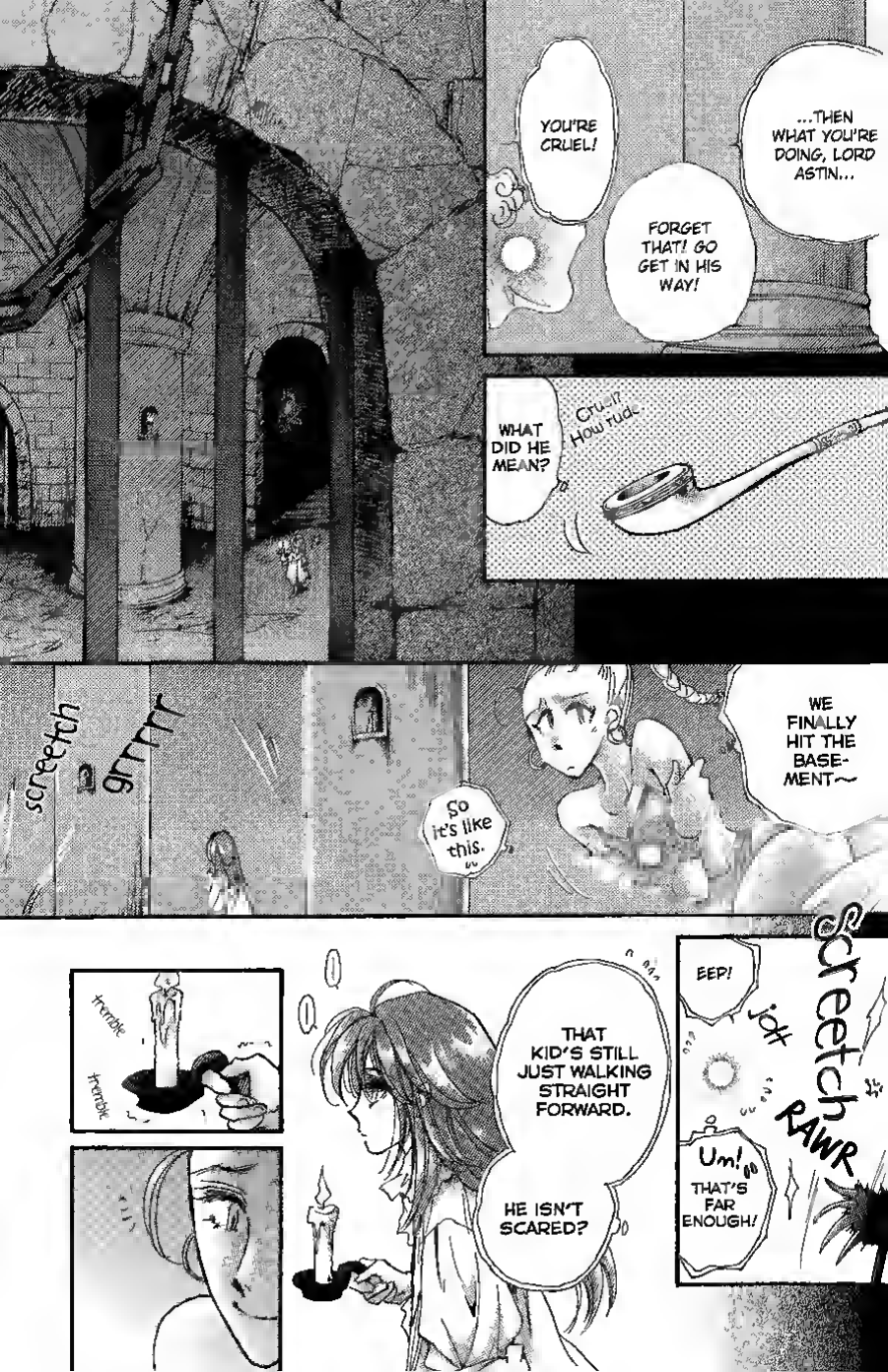
I'D LIKE YOU TO FIND SOMETHING FOR ME.
TRUTHFULLY, WHEN I WENT THIS MORNING TO CHECK ON THE CHIMERAS IN THE BASEMENT,
IT SEEMS I DROPPED AN EARRING.
UNFORTUNATELY, I HAVE A VISITOR COMING SOON THAT I HAVE TO MEET WITH.
CAN YOU FIND IT FOR ME?
THE BASEMENT PRISON, WHERE THE CHIMERAS ARE?
DARK AND SCARY AND...


IT FEELS LIKE IF I GO THERE, I'LL NEVER RETURN.
MAYBE I'LL BE EATEN BY A CHIMERA.
BUT—
...PLEASE TAKE A GOOD LOOK,
SO YOU WON'T MAKE A MISTAKE.
.....
WHEN I FIND THE EARNING, WHO SHOULD I GIVE IT TO?
.. MY MASTER?
OF COURSE,
YOU SHOULD ALWAYS RETURN AN ITEM STRAIGHT TO ITS OWNER.
—OK.

HE'S [illegible]NG STRAIGHT THERE.
DO YOU REALLY THINK HE CAN DO IT?
SHUT UP.
HOW ABOUT YOU TRY KEEPING QUIET?
WHAT AN UNSTEADY GAIT...
DON'T REGRET THIS BET OF OURS.
THE CONTRACT IS RIGHT HERE
BE GOOD AND RELAX IN THE LIVING ROOM WHILE WE WAIT.
WHAT WAS THAT!?
UN-FORTU-NATELY,
I'VE ACTUALLY HAD A BIT OF SCHEDULE CHANGE.
DON'T WORRY. I WON'T INTERFERE.
A PROMISE IS A PROMISE.
THAT JERK ...

THANKS.
SORRY,
I'm too scared.
Byebye
I CAN'T GO PAST HERE.
HEY, YOU'RE BEING TRICKED FOR SURE. IF YOU GO THERE, THAT DEMON WILL EAT YOU.
THIS IS A BIG CASTLE. WE CAN HIDE SOMEWHERE AND LIVE TOGETHER.
ALONG WITH THIS OLD MAN RIGHT HERE.
How are you an Old man?
GIVE IT UP!
My bad!
.. HMM, THE COLD SHOULDER?
Ignoring me?
PON
tap
tap

Oh!
HEY, ISN'T THAT AN EARRING OVER THERE?
PHEW!
YOU FOUND IT WITHOUT HAVING TO GO TO THE BASEMENT!
HEY, LORD ASTIN
THAT KID LOOKS ALL SPACED OUT.
BUT HE'S GETTING THERE, RIGHT?
Maybe that redhead really is strong-willed?
HUH?
HUH? HOW SO?
NO, THAT'S NOT THE MASTER'S.
COULD THIS BET ACTUALLY BE ABOUT THAT..?
JUST GO AND PLAY.
Meanie!
THEN JUST ONE QUESTION FOR THE FORTUNE TELLER.
WHAT IS IT, MY CUTIE?
WHY DID THAT KID CHANGE FROM A CAT INTO HUMAN FORM?
He looked like a normal black cat.
WHY DID HE? THAT WAS HIS ORIGINAL FORM.
IF BOTH PARTIES WANT THE SAME THING, EVEN THE EMPEROR'S SPELL WILL BE UNDONE.
OR TO BE MORE ACCURATE, THE EMPEROR'S WIFE'S.
hahaha


...THEN WHAT YOU'RE DOING, LORD ASTIN...
FORGET THAT! GO GET IN HIS WAY!
YOU'RE CRUEL!
Cru...!? How rude.
WHAT DID HE MEAN?
WE FINALLY HIT THE BASE-MENT~
So it's like this.
screetch
grrrr
EEP!
jolt
screetch
RAWR
Um! THAT'S FAR ENOUGH!
THAT KID'S STILL JUST WALKING STRAIGHT FORWARD.
HE ISN'T SCARED?
tremble
tremble

Ah!
FOUND IT!
Really?
HUH!?
grrr
OH NO, THE BIGGEST ONE'S IN THERE...
THE MEAN ONE—
Eeeek~
IT'S IN THERE!?
I can't reach it.
Hmm
—UH!
...!
RAWR
WHOA!
Eeep. I'm sorry—
... SORRY,
Please let me take it.
EXCUSE ME...
What!? You idiot!
You'll be eaten! Watch out!
Sigh

YOU DID WELL.
BELTA.
NOW,
COME HERE.
GIVE ME THAT EARRING ...

I HAVE TO
I want to live...
GIVE THIS TO MY MASTER.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, YOU IDIOT!?
AREN'T YOU SHAKING WITH FEAR!?
COME HERE!!
grrrr
HERE ...
YOU AREN'T MY MASTER.
NOT SINCE THIS MORN-ING.
HOW
DO YOU KNOW?
...
YOU ALWAYS SMELL LIKE SMOKE, BUT YOU DON'T TODAY.
And you were nice...

FROM HERE I CAN SMELL IT,
FROM INSIDE THE CELL...
THAT'S WHY...
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOUR LITTLE TRICK.
I DID TELL YOU TO WAIT IN THE LIVING ROOM.
hoho
Hahaha!
WELL DONE, BELTA!
DID YOU SEE THAT, VALAFAR?
UH
*wsh

PIPE DOWN!!
NOW GET OUT OF HERE!!
I'm looking forward to it!
KEEP YOUR END OF THE BARGAIN, VALA!
THAT MONSTER'S FORM SUITED YOU UNEXPECTEDLY WELL.
ALONE!
There's that
TOO BAD.
adios
JSMS
—IT'S YOUR WIN, ASTIN.
... FRANKLY,
MY LAP'S FEELING A LITTLE COLD.
THAT NIGHT THE KING LET HIMSELF OUT OF THE PRISON,
AND CALLED MY NAME FOR THE FIRST TIME.
WILL YOU COME HERE, BELTA?
I HAVE TO THANK YOU FOR THAT EARRING.
THE KING'S PRISON // ENDE